

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-15. (Canceled)

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) A process for the production of water-soluble or water-swellaable cationic polymers by:

(i) free-radically initiating copolymerization of monomer mixtures in water comprising

(a) from 1 to 99 % by weight of a cationic monomer or quaternizable monomer,

(b) from 1 to 99 % by weight of a water-soluble monomer,

(c) from 0 to 10 % by weight of a bi- or polyfunctional, free-radically copolymerizable monomer, adjusting the amounts (a) to (c) in such a way that the resulting polymer has an overall positive charge,

in the presence of 1 to 100% of the amount of a salt which is necessary to saturate the reaction medium with said salt and

in the presence of 0.1 to 20 % by weight referred to the weight of the dispersion, of an amphoteric dispersant having an overall negative charge, and

(ii) subsequent quaternization of the polymer if the monomer (a) employed is a non-quaternized monomer.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 16, where the amphoteric dispersant is a copolymer of a at least partly hydrolyzed vinylformamide units and acrylate units.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 16, where the amphoteric dispersant is a copolymer of dimethylaminoethylmethacrylamide units and acrylate units.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 16, wherein the amphoteric dispersant has an overall negative charge at $\text{pH} = 6.75$.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) A dispersion comprising water-soluble or water-swelling cationic polymers obtained by a process according to claim 16.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) A method for dewatering, comprising:
adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 20 to water.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) A method for dewatering, comprising:
adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 20 to a dewatering process.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) A method for clarifying water, comprising:
adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 20 to a water clarification system.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented) A method for making paper, comprising:
adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 20 to a papermaking process.

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) A method for producing oil, comprising:
adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 20 to an oil field ~~an oil field~~
operation.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) A method for conditioning soil, comprising:
adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 20 to soil.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) A method for processing minerals, comprising:
adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 20 to a mineral processing system.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a hair or skin cosmetic,
comprising:
adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 20 to a hair or skin cosmetic
formulation.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented) A hair or skin cosmetic comprising the hair or skin
cosmetic formulation produced by the method as claimed in claim 28.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented) A biotechnological method comprising utilizing the
dispersion as claimed in claim 20 in a biotechnological application.